

Who We Are

NPCR builds partnerships between community-based organizations and local colleges and universities around community-building activities. The research and technical needs of community organizations are matched with the support of student assistants and faculty leadership. NPCR has been promoting community-university partnerships in the Twin Cities since 1993.

Our Goals

NPCR's goals are to:

- enhance the capacity of community-based organizations by providing access to research and technical resources available at local academic institutions
- provide faculty and students at local post-secondary educational institutions with opportunities to complete useful, neighborhood-driven applied research projects



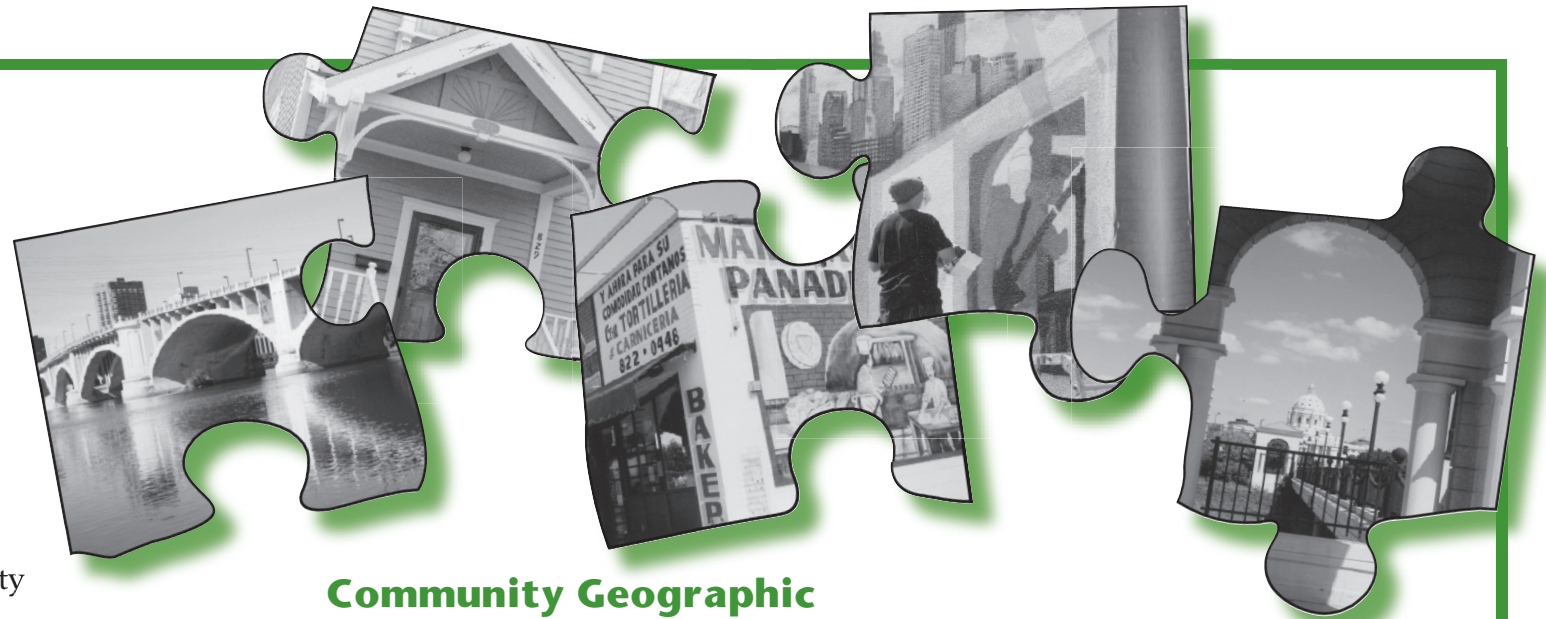
NPCR's Programs

Applied Research Assistantships

Community organizations receive the support of a student research assistant (undergraduate or graduate) to work on a project defined and directed by the community organization. Student research assistants are supported by the community supervisor, and faculty and community mentors.

University-Neighborhood Network

NPCR's University-Neighborhood Network (UNN) integrates community-based projects into the classroom. Students enrolled in participating courses work on technical or research projects for community organizations as part of their coursework. Courses are matched with the project needs of community organizations. Faculty from consortium schools can submit courses, and community organizations can submit project proposals to UNN over the Internet. UNN projects are compatible with a variety of disciplines, including graphic design, mapping, urban planning, and public health. For more information, visit www.unn.umn.edu.



Community Geographic Information Systems

Community organizations are creating maps to research and illustrate trends in their neighborhoods. NPCR is coordinating two community geographic information systems (GIS) initiatives in which community organizations are collaborating with city offices and academic institutions: the St. Paul Community GIS Consortium and the Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System (MNIS).

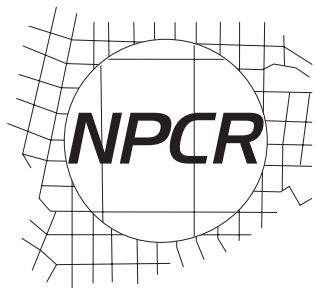
NPCR Library

NPCR makes available on the Internet neighborhood reports written by student and faculty researchers who worked on applied research projects through its programs. You can search for and download reports via the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs' online publications catalog at www.cura.umn.edu/search.php. Hardcopies of reports can be ordered by calling 612-625-1551.

NPCR Partners

An academic consortium of nine colleges and universities in the Twin Cities are involved in the NPCR program. Students and faculty from consortium schools partner with community organizations on research and technical projects. NPCR's academic consortium includes Augsburg College, the College of St. Catherine, Concordia University, Hamline University, Macalester College, Metropolitan State University, Minneapolis Community and Technical College, the University of Minnesota, and the University of St. Thomas.

NPCR is governed by representatives from Twin Cities community organizations and nine colleges and universities. The NPCR program is administered by the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) at the University of Minnesota, and is funded by The McKnight Foundation, the University of Minnesota, and foundation and government grants for special projects.



For more information contact:

Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization

330 HHH Center

301—19th Avenue S.

Minneapolis, MN 55455

612-625-0744

FAX 612-626-0273

E-mail curacbr@umn.edu

www.npcr.org

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Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization



Building Community- University Partnerships

Opportunities for: College Students and Faculty

NPCR's applied research projects give students an opportunity to apply their research and technical skills at a community organization. Students can gain valuable hands-on experience working for a community organization on neighborhood issues, experience that often provides an advantage in the job market.

Faculty leadership is key in fostering community-university partnerships. Faculty can engage students in applied research by integrating community projects into their courses. Faculty also mentor student researchers as they work in community settings. Community-based projects extend student learning beyond the classroom by exposing students to tangible clients and projects.

Urban Neighborhoods and Suburban Communities

Community organizations can apply to NPCR to receive the support of a student assistant on a project that will impact their neighborhood. NPCR supports projects that research the planning, implementation, or evaluation of a neighborhood-based revitalization program or service. Projects with strong community involvement from suburban areas may also be considered.

NPCR accepts project proposals from community-based organizations three times per year. Organizations that work for and with communities of color are strongly encouraged to apply. Organizations wishing to partner with one another on a project are also encouraged to apply.

Eligible Organizations

Criteria for Eligibility

- Located in Minneapolis, St. Paul, or surrounding suburbs
- Represent a neighborhood area, defined either by city-designated boundaries or subjective boundaries that reflect cultural, emotional, or historical ties to an area
- Governed by a board, with the majority of the members selected from the community being served and open to all members of the community
- Have a capacity to supervise and direct a student research assistant